

A Resolution In Support of Inclusion and Accessibility for Students with Disabilities

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WHEREAS, the Associated Students Inc. (ASI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates as an auxiliary organization of California State University, Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, ASI is governed by the ASI Board of Directors which sets policy for the organization, approves all funding allocations to programs and services, and advocates on behalf of student interests on committees and boards; and

WHEREAS, CSU Fullerton includes approximately 40,000 students of which 43.6% are underrepresented students (i.e., Native American, Black, Hispanic, and Pacific Islander);¹ and

WHEREAS, 1,540 students (3.85%) of CSU Fullerton student population were registered with the Office of Disability Support Services as of May 2019², which is inconsistent with the national average of the 20% of Americans with Disabilities;³ and

WHEREAS, disability is legally defined as "with respect to an individual as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities or being regarded as having such an impairment": ⁴ and

WHEREAS, accessible is defined as "a person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability";⁵ and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that as a product of social marginalization and the stigma of minority group membership, persons with disabilities are reluctant to communicate and have little belief in their ability to achieve;⁶ and

WHEREAS, CSU Executive Order 926 states that campuses shall continue to strive for a barrier-free environment and support universal access;⁷ and

¹ http://www.fullerton.edu/data/_resources/pdfs/ir/CSUF_Facts_Fall2018.pdf

² Disability Support Services Brochure, 2019

³ https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/miscellaneous/cb12-134.html

⁴ https://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm

⁵ http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1111.pdf

⁶ Collins, M., & Mowbray, E. (2005). Understanding the Policy Context for Supporting Students with Psychiatric Disabilities in Higher Education. *Community Mental Health Journal*, *41*(4), 431-450.

⁷ http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-926.html.

WHEREAS, the CSU Fullerton department of Disability Support Services provides support services for students with mobility limitations, learning disabilities, hearing or visual impairments, and other disabilities;⁸ and

WHEREAS, Abled Advocators is a recognized student organization at CSU Fullerton that encourages Disability ally-ship, awareness, and pride; and

WHEREAS, CSU Fullerton harbors barriers to physical, technological and social access and inclusion making the educational experience of students with disabilities significantly different from their nondisabled peers;⁹ and

WHEREAS, students at CSU Fullerton have experienced discrimination and inappropriate behaviors from peers, faculty and staff which is influenced by the exclusion, objectification, and discrimination during history; ¹⁰ and

WHEREAS, at CSU Fullerton, students with disabilities do not have a permanent space that supports the disability identity and builds community; 11 and

WHEREAS, ASI public meetings are not fully accessible to students with disabilities who cannot physically attend; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, that with the adoption of this resolution, ASI supports increasing efforts to empower and support faculty, staff, and students with disabilities; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges CSSA to advocate for funds to provide a safe space and programming for students with disabilities on all twenty-three CSU campuses; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges CSU Board of Trustees to offer faculty and staff for all twenty-three CSU campuses trainings on the topic of disability; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges the University to provide training on disability for all faculty, staff, and residential advisors starting no later than Fall 2020; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges Disability Support Services to provide ally trainings that are open to students, faculty, and staff no later than Fall 2020; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI, in partnership with Disability Support Services, facilitate workshops and ally trainings regarding disability at least once per year for all ASI staff and student employees; and let it be

⁸ http://www.fullerton.edu/dss/

⁹ Yadollahi, D., (April, 2018). How My University Could Be More Inclusive of Students With Disabilities. Accepted The Mighty, online press.

¹⁰ Yadollahi, D. (March 20 & April 11, 2019). Disabled by Design: Access & Inclusion at CSUF; "Nothing About Us Without Us". Research poster presented at two symposia at California State University, Fullerton.

¹¹ http://www.fullerton.edu/dirc/

RESOLVED, that the ASI Leader and Program Development implement sensitivity trainings around the topic of disability for all ASI student leaders and this training take place before the first official ASI business meeting is set to occur; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges Student Life and Leadership to incorporate disability sensitivity training into LeadCon for all new and existing organizations; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges the University President, in collaboration with Abled Advocators and Disability Support Services, to recognize Disability Awareness Month and host a Disability Recognition President's Reception beginning in 2019; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges Student Life and Leadership to include Disability Support Services and Abled Advocators in the annual Social Justice Summit; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI shall pursue filming and streaming accessible videos with closed captioning and visual descriptions of all Board of Directors and TSC Board of Trustee meetings; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges Disability Support Services establish a student-majority advisory group to aid in transparency and communication, and to provide input on department changes that affect students with disabilities; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges Disability Support Services to provide periodic reports to student leaders on new initiatives, programs, and compliance; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges the Division of Student Affairs to permanently provide a space for students with disabilities where the students feel safe and connected to their community; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI collaborate with Disability Support Services to advocate for additional funding and resources for student accommodations; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI shall run a marketing campaign, in collaboration with Disability Support Services, to increase awareness of DSS services and issues affecting disabled students; and let it be

RESOLVED, that ASI urges Diversity Initiatives & Resource Centers to include DSS staff in regular meetings to keep a strong line of communication and increase collaboration; and let it be

RESOLVED, that, in order to ensure adequate progress is made on the expectations outlined in this resolution, the ASI President and Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer provide one status update to the ASI Board of Directors annually until no further action is required; and let it be finally

RESOLVED, that this Resolution be distributed to the California State University Board of Trustees, Chancellor Timothy P. White, the California State Student Association, all twenty-three CSU Student Governments, the California Faculty Association, the Governor of California, the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education, and the following CSU Fullerton departments, divisions, and/or entities: the office of Disability Support Services, Campus Police, the Office of the President, the President's Advisory Board, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Housing and Residential Engagement, the Office of the Vice President of Administration and Finance, the Office of the Vice President for University Advancement, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Academic Senate and Daily Titan.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton on this seventh day of May in the year two thousand nineteen.

Tristan Torres

Chair, Board of Directors

Matria Libertes

Vice Chair/Secretary, Board of Directors

Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton President does hereby approve / [] refuse to approve this resolution.

Ana Aldazabal

ASI President

Date